

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 – 2. (Canceled)

3. (Withdrawn) A vessel for storing particulate matter, comprising a main part and, at a bottom portion thereof, at least one discharge device, which comprises a converging outer shell and a permeable, converging inner shell positioned in the outer shell, the discharge device being connected to the main part by means of a first flange at or near a lower rim of the bottom portion of the main part and a second flange at or near an upper rim of the outer shell, whereby the inner shell is secured at or near its upper rim to an inner wall of the outer shell of the discharge device, wherein said inner wall comprises an inner wall of the second flange, wherein the inner wall of the second flange is provided with at least one lug or ring and the inner shell is attached to this lug or ring.

4. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 3, wherein an element for matching an inner wall of the main part of the vessel to an inner wall of the inner shell has been attached to an inner wall of the first flange.

5. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 3, wherein the upper rim of the inner shell extends at least substantially flush with the face of the second flange.

6. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 5, wherein the connection between the inner shell and the outer shell is sealed by means of a gasket.

7. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 3, wherein the inner shell is secured at or near its upper rim to the inner wall of the outer shell of the discharge device to avoid clamping a flange forming the upper rim of the inner shell between said first flange and second flange.

8. (Withdrawn) A vessel for storing particulate matter, comprising a main part and, at a bottom portion thereof, at least one discharge device, which comprises a converging outer shell and a permeable, converging inner shell positioned in the outer shell, the discharge device being connected to the main part by means of a first flange at or near a lower rim of the bottom portion of the main part and a second flange at or near an upper rim of the outer shell, whereby the outer shell comprises, at a bottom portion thereof, a third flange and whereby a lower end portion of the inner shell is essentially cylindrical and positioned in line with a central opening of the third flange and/or extends through this opening.

9. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 8, wherein a stuffing box assembly is positioned between the cylindrical lower portion of the inner shell and the outer shell, which assembly seals a cavity defined by the inner shell and the outer shell.
10. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 3, wherein all the said flanges are standardized flanges.
11. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 3, wherein the outer shell is provided with at least one inlet for injecting gas into a cavity defined by the outer shell and the inner shell, which inlet runs substantially perpendicular to the central axis of the vessel.
12. (Currently Amended) A discharge device for use in a vessel for storing particulate matter, comprising a converging outer shell and a permeable, converging inner shell positioned in the outer shell, the inner shell comprising an upper rim, wherein the inner shell is secured at or near its upper rim to an inner wall of the outer shell forming a connection between the inner shell and the outer shell, wherein the connection between the inner shell and the outer shell is sealed by means of a gasket.
13. (Previously Presented) The discharge device of claim 12, wherein the inner shell has been attached to the inner wall of the outer shell.
14. (Previously Presented) The discharge device of claim 13, comprising a flange forming the upper rim of the outer shell, the inner shell being attached to an inner wall of this flange.
15. (Previously Presented) The discharge device of claim 14, wherein the upper rim of the inner shell extends at least substantially flush with the upper rim of the said flange.
16. (Withdrawn) The vessel claim 8, wherein all the said flanges are standardized flanges.
17. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 8, wherein the outer shell is provided with at least one inlet for injecting gas into the cavity defined by the outer shell and the inner shell, which inlet runs substantially perpendicular to the central axis of the vessel.
18. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 3, wherein the particulate matter comprises at least one of pulverized coal and fly ash.

19. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 3, wherein a gasket is positioned between the lug or ring and the inner shell.
20. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 8, wherein the particulate matter comprises at least one of pulverized coal and fly ash.
21. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 8, wherein the inner shell is secured at or near its upper rim to an inner wall of the outer shell of the discharge device.
22. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 8, wherein an inner wall of the second flange is provided with at least one lug or ring and the inner shell is attached to this lug or ring.
23. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 12, wherein the particulate matter comprises at least one of pulverized coal and fly ash.
24. (Currently Amended) A vessel for storing particulate matter, comprising a main part and, at a bottom portion thereof, at least one discharge device, which comprises a converging outer shell and a permeable, converging inner shell positioned in the outer shell, the inner shell comprising an upper rim, the discharge device being connected to the main part by means of a first flange at or near a lower rim of the bottom portion of the main part and a second flange at or near an upper rim of the outer shell, whereby the inner shell is secured at or near its upper rim to the inner wall of the outer shell of the discharge device thus forming a connection between the inner shell and the outer shell, wherein the connection between the inner shell and the outer shell is sealed by means of a gasket.
25. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 24, wherein the inner shell has been attached to an inner wall of the second flange.
26. (Currently Amended) The vessel of claim 25, wherein the inner shell is secured at or near its upper rim to the inner wall of the outer shell by means of the inner wall of the second flange is provided with at least one lug or ring and provided on the inner wall of the second flange, to which lug or ring the inner shell is attached to this lug or ring, whereby the gasket is positioned between the lug or ring and the inner shell.
27. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 24, wherein an element for matching an inner wall of the main part of the vessel to an inner wall of the inner shell has been attached to an inner wall of the first flange.

28. (Previously Presented) The vessel of claim 24, wherein the upper rim of the inner shell extends at least substantially flush with the face of the second flange.

29. (Withdrawn) A discharge device for use in a vessel for storing particulate matter, comprising a converging outer shell, a flange forming an upper rim of the outer shell, and a permeable, converging inner shell positioned in the outer shell, wherein an inner wall of the second flange is provided with at least one lug or ring and the inner shell is secured at or near its upper rim to that lug or ring.

30. (Withdrawn) A discharge device, which comprises a converging outer shell and a permeable, converging inner shell positioned in the outer shell, the discharge device being provided with a second flange at or near an upper rim of the outer shell which second flange is connectable to a first flange, whereby the outer shell comprises, at a bottom portion thereof, a third flange and whereby a lower end portion of the inner shell is cylindrical and positioned in line with a central opening of the third flange and/or extends through this opening.

31. (Withdrawn) A vessel for storing particulate matter, comprising a main part and, at a bottom portion thereof, at least one discharge device, which comprises a converging outer shell and a permeable, converging inner shell positioned in the outer shell, the discharge device being connected to the main part by means of a first flange at or near a lower rim of the bottom portion of the main part and a second flange at or near an upper rim of the outer shell, whereby the inner shell is secured at or near its upper rim to an inner wall of the outer shell of the discharge device, wherein an element for matching the inner wall of the main part of the vessel to the inner wall of the inner shell has been attached to the inner wall of the first flange.

32. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 31, wherein the upper rim of the inner shell extends at least substantially flush with the face of the second flange.

33. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 31, wherein the conicity of an inner wall of the element matches that of the inner wall of the inner shell.

34. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 31, wherein the element is an annular element.

35. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 31, wherein the element has been welded to the inner wall of the first flange.